

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 TUNIS 03741 271409Z
ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS
TO USDOC WASHDC
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 6919

UNCLAS TUNIS 3741

E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: BEXP TS
SUBJ: AWARD OF \$10 MILLION STEG POWER PROJECT CONTRACT

1. TUNISIAN PRESS ANNOUNCED MAY 26 THAT THE \$10 MILLION CONTRACT FOR THE SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF THE HYDRO-ELECTRIC COMPONENT OF THE SIDI SALEM MULTIPURPOSE PROJECT HAS BEEN AWARDED TO A WEST GERMAN/SWISS CONSORTIUM, HEADED BY SIEMENS, A.G. WHO WILL SUPPLY THE GENERATOR FOR THE PLANT. THE OTHER COMPANY, LES ATELIERS DES CHARMILLES S.A. WILL SUPPLY THE TURBINE.

2. THIS POWER PLANT, TO BE BUILT AT SIDI SALEM, NEAR TESTOUR, 50 MILES TO THE WEST OF TUNIS, WILL GO INTO OPERATION IN 1982. IT WILL HAVE A CAPACITY VARYING BETWEEN 18 AND 36 MEGA-WATTS.

3. STEG HAS TAKEN MORE THAN 11 MONTHS TO MAKE A DECISION ON THIS TENDER. THIS IS THE SECOND TIME IN THREE MONTHS THAT STEG HAS OPTED FOR A EUROPEAN CONSORTIUM FOR A MAJOR PROJECT. IN MARCH, STEG CHOSE A GERMAN/AUSTRIAN GROUP (INCLUDING SIEMENS OSTERREICH) FOR ITS \$100 MILLION SOEAM POWER PLANT PROJECT.

4. TO BEST OUR KNOWLEDGE, NO U.S. COMPANIES
BID ON SUBJECT TENDER.
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